

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

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NSC-10 SS-14 RSR-01 /066 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6973

INFO DOD

USCINCSO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

COMUSMILGP RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 1705

JOINT EMBASSY/ DAO MESSAGE

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, BR

SUBJECT: VISIT BY SECRETARY AND CHIEF OF STAFF OF
US ARMY

1. DESPITE TRADITIONAL WARMTH OF WELCOME BY BRAZILIAN
MILITARY AUTHORITIES OF VISITS BY SENIOR US MILITARY
PERSONNEL, THERE HAVE BEEN INDICATIONS FROM BEGINNING
OF DISCUSSIONS ON VISIT BY SECRETARY FROEHLKE AND GENERAL
ABRAMS THAT BRAZILIANS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN
ENTHUSIASTIC. IT HAS NOW BECOME CLEAR THAT GENERAL
GEISEL' S ATTITUDE IS SO COOL AS TO CAUSE GENERAL BOLLING,
GENERAL MOURA AND ME TO CONCLUDE THAT IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE
TO DELETE BRAZIL FROM ITINERARY, AND WE SO RECOMMEND.

2. GENERAL GEISEL' S INITIAL RELUCTANCE STEMMED FROM WHAT
HE CONSIDERED TO BE SHORT NOTICE OF VISIT BY SUCH DIS -
TINGUISHED OFFICIALS, ALLOWING TOO LITTLE TIME FOR HIM
AND OTHER BRAZILIAN LEADERS TO READJUST THEIR SCHEDULES
TO PERMIT PROPER RECEPTION. INDEED, THERE WERE INDICATIONS
THAT GEISEL INITIALLY DECIDED TO ASK THAT VISIT
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NOT TAKE PLACE AT THIS TIME BUT CHANGED HIS MIND AS RESULT OF WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF ARMY WAS INFORMED THAT VISIT MIGHT PROCEED. SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY NO MOVEMENT IN PREPARATION OF SCHEDULE. DISCUSSIONS YESTERDAY BY GENERAL BOLLING IN RIO AND GENERAL MOURA IN BRASILIA TENDED FULLY TO CONFIRM THAT ATMOSPHERE FOR VISIT IS POOR AND THAT MILITARY PERSONNEL, TAKING THEIR GUIDANCE FROM GENERAL GEISEL, CANNOT DISCUSS DETAILS, THEORETICALLY AWAITING "CLEARANCE" BY FOREIGN OFFICE WHICH, OF COURSE, WOULD HAVE NO INFLUENCE WHATSOEVER IN MATTER. (WHEN I INFORMED FONMIN OF VISIT HE ACCEPTED NEWS WITH PLEASURE AND SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING WITH SECRETARY FROEHLKE AND GENERAL ABRAMS.)

3. IT WOULD INDEED BE UNFORTUNATE IF VISIT SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN CIRCUMSTANCES UNFAVORABLE TO EXTREMELY CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WHICH WE HAVE HAD BETWEEN OUR MILITARY SERVICES, BUT EQUALLY UNFORTUNATE IF ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANCELLATION SHOULD APPEAR TO BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS AND PUBLIC TO BE ABRASSIVE. IT IS OUR CONSIDERED JUDGMENT THAT WE SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO TELL BRAZILIANS SIMPLY THAT SECRETARY FROEHLKE AND GENERAL ABRAMS GREATLY REGRET THAT MATTERS HAVE ARISEN WHICH REQUIRE THEIR RETURN TO WASHINGTON EARLIER THAN PREVIOUSLY EXPECTED. CONSEQUENTLY, THEY ARE CANCELLING THEIR VISIT TO BRAZIL AT THIS TIME WITH THE EARNEST HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO RESCHEDULE AT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATE IN THE FUTURE.
ROUNTREE

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